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Ex-Director Departs Unobtrusively

Bush Gets CIA Reins, Colby the Cheers

By Fred Barnes
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He did not not stay around to chat. Moments after the slight, bespectacled man became the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he walked alone to his weatherbeaten car, climbed in and drove away from the U.S. spy agency's sprawling headquarters at Langley, Va., his final duties there completed.

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But William E. Colby didn't leave unnoticed. He departed amid a resounding chorus of cheers from his fellow CIA employes, drawing far more vigorous applause than did the

man who replaced him as director of U.S. intelligence.

When Colby walked into the CIA's dome-shaped auditorium yesterday about 10 minutes before the swearing-in ceremony for his successor, George Bush, he was greeted by a thunderous, standing ovation from about 1,000 employes gathered there.

THE CLAPPING went on and on, and finally Colby had to wave the crowd into silence. And later, when President Ford, during a brief speech, praised Colby's "outstanding

record," the crowd rose again to give the departing director another ovation.

Colby stood stiffly, his hands cupped at his side, while Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart administered the oath to Bush, most recently the head of the U.S. mission to China. When this was finished, Colby smiled faintly.

Following the 20-minute ceremony, Colby escorted Ford and Bush next door to the massive building which houses the CIA, for which he had worked for 25 years.

He did not go inside, however. Instead, he turned away and went to his car parked in front. The crowd in front of the building cheered as he drove away. Colby waved and was gone.

DURING THE ceremony, it was Colby who gave the introduction for Ford, the man who had fired him as CIA director last November, but then had to backtrack and ask him to stay on a bit longer until Bush won confirmation.

Colby's remarks were brief and he made only an indirect reference to the revelations of illegal activity by the CIA during his period of service there. He spoke only of the 'turmoil' and tumult of the last year.

Despite the troubles besetting the agency, he said, it continues "to produce the best intelligence in the world." Ford and Bush said roughly the same thing in their remarks.

Bush, whose controversial nomination to the CIA post was confirmed on Tuesday, indicated that he will review the past practices of the agency to see if some of them should be abandoned.

He said he is "determined to take a new look at some of the practices that may have made sense in the past, but must now be rethought to see if they are necessary and, indeed, are compatible with the moral judgments of our country."